

Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council

Act No 180 Report to House and Senate Committees on Government Operations and Judiciary

Progress Made on Developing a Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) Certification Training

Act No. 180 required the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council (VCJTC) to report on the following:

Sec. 2. REPORTS

(a) On or before January 15, 2015, the Criminal Justice Training Council shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Judiciary on the progress made implementing the rules, training, and certification standards required by this act.

The VCJTC has taken the following steps towards developing a certification training standard for CEW use:

- Adding CEW certification to the post-basic training curriculum. This will allow those agencies that use CEW's to get their recruits certified during the basic training process.
- The training curriculum for initial certification will consist of:
 1. The manufacturer's training and certification course
 2. The level of resistance that an officer must encounter before deploying the CEW
 3. De-escalation techniques
 4. Going over the essential components of the statewide model policy as developed by the Law Enforcement Advisory Board (LEAB)
 5. Scenario-based practice
- Annual recertification will consist of the following:
 1. The manufacturer's recertification course
 2. Scenario-based practice
 3. Review of the agency's CEW Use Policy

The method the VCJTC will use to deliver this training will be the same as that used for firearms training: recruits/officers will be required to get their initial certification at the Vermont Police Academy (VPA) under the supervision of Academy staff, and annual recertification can be provided by agencies using Council-certified trainers.

To facilitate the delivery of training during the basic academy, the VPA has purchased Taser CEW's, the most commonly used CEW in Vermont, and will certify two staff members as CEW trainers. The VPA is in the process of purchasing a Firearms Training System (FATS) that will include the CEW option—this will allow the FATS to be used to train for CEW deployment as well as use of firearms.

In late February, the proposed curriculum will be presented to the Council Use of Force Committee for review and critique, and then to the Council Training Advisory Committee for final review before going before the full VCJTC meeting in March for a vote. The VPA will be able to provide this training beginning with its fall basic training session, which begins in August of 2015.

When the curriculum is accepted, agencies will be informed of the new certification requirements that will become effective January 1, 2016, which will coincide with the requirement to have a CEW policy that contains the essential components as identified by the LEAB.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard B. Gauthier, Executive Director
Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council